APPENDIX

TO

DR. MACKINTOSH'S STATEMENT,

IN ANSWER TO

MR. SYME'S AND DR. BELFRAGE'S NEW "STATEMENT OF FACTS."

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APPENDIX.

Dr. Mackintosh had indeed played the part of a fool to make a show of defence in this affair at first, were he not in a condition to vindicate himself completely. In his former statement he was compelled to appeal to public opinion to meet an erroneous impression which a pamphlet most extensively circulated by Mr. Syme was calculated to produce, in consequence of that person having suppressed important facts, and having told *only part of the truth.* Dr. Mackintosh regretted the necessity for such a proceeding, on account of all the parties concerned, and on account of the paltry, frivolous, and vexatious origin of an affair, which is sufficient to give him a disgust of his favourite beverage of bohea and hyson for the rest of his life.

He deplored above all things the dragging the name of an amiable and innocent young lady before the public, and he regretted the bad appearance which Dr. Belfrage and Mr. Syme's other advisers, but particularly Dr. Belfrage, must inevitably make from the beginning to the end of the affair.

In his former statement, Dr. Mackintosh treated Dr. Belfrage's name with the utmost delicacy, and, as will be seen in the sequel, with undeserved forbearance, although he felt that this was done at the risk of materially weakening his own cause. He could have exposed the falsehood of his statements and mischievous tendency of his conduct; but

the expressions of friendship employed by Dr. Belfrage in that stage of the business bade him desist, and he was then disposed to attribute these errors to the head, and not to the heart of that unfortunate person. But Dr. B. must now pay the price of treachery, want of faith, and indiscretion. Were he to live a thousand years as a sincere philanthropist and peace-maker, he could scarcely wash off the foul blot wherewith he has stained his name. He has taken advantage of his priesthood to create dissensions, to tattle, and to make mischief, and his cloth has saved his life, or mine. But Dr. Mackintosh will now proceed to refute Dr. Belfrage's letter, as he finds it in Mr. Syme's last pamphlet, by which it will be observed he has made such a sinner of his memory as to credit his own false inventions, when he ought to have applied to Dr. M. for more correct information,—instead of doing so he has made shadows of truth to assume false shapes, to suit his own purposes.

Before Dr. Mackintosh proceeds, however, to this unpleasant task, he must observe that he was absent from Edinburgh on account of his health when Mr. Syme's printed Statement was circulated; but upon being written to on the subject, he rose from a bed of sickness, and travelled without halting for two days and nights, in order as speedily as possible to meet the assertions which were made against him.

It must be recollected that Dr. Mackintosh was distinctly charged in Mr. Syme's first Statement with having traduced the character of a young lady, the sister-in-law of Mr. Syme, and the intimate friend and companion of the females of his own family; not indeed with the view of injuring her, but in order that the circumstances might be reported to Mr. Syme, for the purpose of injuring and irritating his feelings. Dr. Mackintosh successfully defended himself from this accusation by written evidence from the lady herself, from Mr. George Willis, her cousin, and by documents presented to Dr. Mackintosh by Mr. Fraser, the brother-in-law of Miss

Willis, and Dr. Robertson, who were at the tea-party along with Mr. Liston, and who knew more of the whole affair than Dr. Mackintosh did. Dr. Mackintosh having been fully exonerated by the parties from the only charge then made against him, was next accused by Mr. Syme of having insulted him, by letter dated the 25th September 1832, and of cowardice in having refused either to apologise or to meet Mr. Syme in personal combat. Dr. Mackintosh has already explained the circumstances connected with this absurd accusation, and they need not at present be resumed. It is sufficient to say, that in order to set that matter completely at rest, and to vindicate himself before the world, he resolved to obtain the deliberate opinion of military men, accustomed to direct their conduct by the rules of honour. The result has been already stated in the last page of Dr. M's. first statement.

This matter being thus set at rest, Dr. Belfrage, who of all men was called on to remain quiet, then comes forward with a Statement containing new charges, totally different from that originally preferred—charges of a far more serious description.

EXCERPT from the STATEMENT by Dr. BELFRAGE, with Annotations by Dr. MACKINTOSH.

"*Slateford, October* 18, 1832.

"*After having perused, this morning, very cursorily, the printed Statement which Dr. Mackintosh is circulating among his friends, I was strongly impressed with a conviction that every one who reads it, and who has not otherwise become acquainted with the circumstances, will draw from it the following conclusions:*

"1. *That the whole affair reported to me by Dr. M., and of which I gave an account to Mr. Syme, relates to a young lady with whom the latter is connected—that I had*

no good reason for making any communication on the subject—and that therefore it ought to have been suppressed.

"2. *That the account which I gave of what was told me by Dr. M. was incorrect, and that I am now sensible it was so. And,*

"3. *That I have retracted, in the presence of Dr. Robertson and Mr. Fraser, all that I had previously said, and expressed my regret for the rash and foolish part I had acted.*

"*I have no hesitation in asserting that these conclusions are as false as they are injurious; and notwithstanding my extreme reluctance to meddle with strife not belonging to me, and to have my name coupled, however remotely, with a transaction which I regard with abhorrence; yet a regard to truth, as well as to character, obliges me to come fearlessly forward, and to make the followiny counter statement:*

"*The conversation out of which so much trouble is said to have arisen, took place at Slateford on Friday* 21*st of September. On that day Dr. Mackintosh, whom I had not seen in my house for many months, did me the honour to call upon me, and as a serious misunderstanding had, during the interval, taken place between him and Mr. Syme, he seemed anxious, by giving me a minute narrative of the causes which led to it, to remove from my mind any impression unfavourable to himself. He mentioned that it was all owing,*" *&c. &c.*

With reference to these paragraphs, Dr. Mackintosh has shortly to remark, that in such an important matter, where the character of so many persons was involved, Dr. Belfrage should not have "*perused so very cursorily the printed Statement.*" He was bound, in justice to others, to give it the most serious and deliberate attention. But his conduct shows that he has acted with the same indiscreet rashness

from first to last. His three conclusions, however, are quite correct, for there is not an unprejudiced person who has not arrived at a similar result; and this just shows how conclusive is the documentary evidence offered by Dr. Mackintosh in his former statement. No one will attend to Dr. Belfrage's pompous assertion "*that these conclusions are as false as they are injurious;*" for if he will attend at the police-office of any city in the empire, he will find that not a fellow is ever brought to the bar who is not ready and willing to make such asseverations. The judges in such cases, and the public in his case, will disregard such assertions, and look to the actual deeds of the parties.

Dr. Belfrage has given an erroneous impression as to the object of Dr. Mackintosh's visit to him on Friday 21st September. His visits to Slateford were not very unusual; more frequent when he had it in his power to render assistance and advice to Dr. Belfrage and his friends, and the poor people in the village; less frequent when he was hurried with business in Edinburgh, when it was by no means unusual for three months to elapse between his visitations. Dr. Mackintosh's visit on the occasion alluded to was perfectly accidental: he had been seeing a patient some miles beyond Slateford, in consultation with the medical gentleman of Ratho: he was there asked if he had seen Dr. Belfrage lately, and was told that he had been complaining, and Dr. M. promised to call on him as he passed through Slateford, which he accordingly did.

Dr. M. has now to take notice of the charge of conspiracy which he and others had formed, for the purpose of ruining Mr. Syme's prospects in life. This infamous charge, which has been got up, and now for the first time brought forward against Dr. Mackintosh, and which had hitherto been artfully concealed both by Dr. Belfrage and Mr. Syme, seems to have been the head and front of his offence. For, says Dr. Belfrage, "*after he (Dr. Mackin-*

tosh) was gone, we talked for sometime over what we had heard, expressing our regret that Mr. Syme should be regarded with such hostile feelings—our conviction that a conspiracy was formed to do him every possible injury—and our desire that he should be apprized of what was going on, that he might adopt measures for his own safety." (Page 13). In the following page, Dr. Belfrage states, that in his "*conversation with Mr. Syme on the 22d, the conduct of that young lady* (Miss Willis) *was hardly in any degree an object of attention. It called forth only one passing remark.*"

It is quite true that Dr. Mackintosh defended himself to Dr. Belfrage; and it is very probable that Dr. M. said he did not know what Mr. Syme would now do, since he had lost his two best friends, meaning Dr. Robertson and himself—that at no time did he stand in so much need of friendly assistance; for some arrangements had already taken place, and that others must soon be completed, which, he believed, would have the effect of reducing the number of his pupils materially, both at his class and at his hospital. If Dr. Belfrage had done right, he should, in his zeal for the great cause of truth, of which he so often boasts, have made farther inquiry of Dr. Mackintosh as to the number and rank of the conspirators; and how they were to effect the ruin of Mr. Syme; and how it came to pass that Dr. M., one of the conspirators, should go to Dr. Belfrage, the bosom-friend of Mr. Syme, and expose his own wicked machinations, and that too in the presence of other members of Dr. B.'s family. If he had done so, Dr. Mackintosh would have given, without the slightest hesitation, the following very simple and true explanation. By this means all the subsequent mischief would have been prevented; and he would have saved himself from the odium which must now attach to his character as a man, not to speak of his Christian offices as a clergyman, which ought

to lead him to preach and to practise "*peace and good-will to mankind.*"

According to Dr. Belfrage's Statement, the conspiracy against Mr. Syme consists of "*arrangements already made, and others which are contemplated.*"

1. Does Dr. Mackintosh deserve to be traduced and called a conspirator, because of the recent appointment of Mr. Turner to the professorship of surgery in the University of Edinburgh, whose course of lectures being delivered on the same subject as Mr. Syme's, and at the same hour, must carry off a large majority of the students who intend to graduate? And as attendance on the professor's class is rendered compulsory, while Mr. Syme's is not, was it a natural conclusion to have drawn, that "*Mr. Syme's class would fall off this winter?*"

2. Since Mr. Lizars' appointment, a year ago, by the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, to be their professor of surgery, the number of pupils attending that gentleman's class had materially increased.

3. There had been an increase in the number of private lecturers on surgery. Last winter Mr. Fergusson came forward, and had a good class. By this gentleman's kind, frank, and obliging manner to students, he had acquired considerable popularity; and having lately performed several of the most important operations in surgery successfully, Dr. Mackintosh had little doubt that he would go on supporting his reputation, and increasing the number of his pupils.

4. Dr. Robertson had made arrangements to lecture on surgery with Mr. Liston. The united talents and popularity of these two gentlemen, the great celebrity of the latter as a surgeon, and the clearness and excellence of Dr. Robertson's style of lecturing, were such, that in the course of time, if not immediately, students would find it their interest to attend their class.

5. The opening of the new Surgical Hospital, attached to the Royal Infirmary, was at hand, which Dr. Mackintosh believed would have the effect of injuring Mr. Syme's hospital.

6. Other changes were contemplated, founded upon the report of the Commissioners for the Scotch Universities, which was then published, which must have the effect of materially injuring the classes of private lecturers.

Is there any conspiracy in all these circumstances, or do they betray any premeditated plan, on the part of Dr. M. and others, of ruining Mr. Syme as a lecturer or practitioner? Let Dr. Belfrage say in what the conspiracy consists? The Mysteries of Udolpho, in five volumes, is not a more ridiculous allegory, or a more entertaining romance! Has Dr. Belfrage sunk prematurely into second childhood? But it can fortunately be proved, by Dr. Belfrage's actions, that he never had any serious notion of a conspiracy. If he supposed Dr. M. to be such a base traitor and conspirator, how came it that he did not show him to the door, or tell him his mind as to the enormity of the offence? How came it that Dr. Belfrage treated Dr. M. so very kindly during the whole of his long visit, and at parting was, if possible, more kind and affectionate to him than ever? Dr. M. was indeed told to take care of himself, not from evil ways, but of his health, and to give up the cholera affairs, as "good people were scarce." This last remark was made either by Dr. Belfrage or Miss Grindlay.

Dr. Belfrage did not occupy all the time of the visit in talking of Mr. Syme; on the contrary, other matters were brought on the carpet. The state of Dr. Belfrage's health—that of the patient he had been visiting—that of Dr. Mackintosh himself, who was at the time weakly, and only then recovering from an injury received in the Cholera Hospital. Dr. Belfrage also entered into the history of a young man,

a friend of his—told him of the failure of a professional scheme of his, and solicited Dr. Mackintosh's good offices in his favour. Dr. B. added, addressing himself to Dr. M., "you are a warm-hearted and benevolent fellow" (or person), "I daresay you will be able to do something for him," or words to that effect. Towards the termination of his visit at Slateford, Dr. Belfrage again emphatically alluded to the circumstance of obtaining Dr. M.'s assistance to provide for this young man.

Are these circumstances consistent with the idea of Dr. B.'s mind being seriously impressed with Dr. M.'s villanous conspiracy against Mr. Syme?

But Dr. M. has further to remark, that as soon as he heard of the extensive circulation of Mr. Syme's first Statement, he wrote a letter to Dr. B., complaining of the cruel manner in which he had been used, &c. The following is a copy of the letter:

"*Edinburgh, Sunday, 2d October* 1832.

"My Dear Sir—I am sorry to find that Mr. Syme is circulating a statement of the transaction which arose out of my last visit to you. I have not seen the document, but am told by a medical friend that your name is introduced. I am extremely sorry that you and the lady should be dragged before the public, and more particularly if in self-defence I shall be forced to speak of you both. It may prove an unfortunate affair to some of us. I feel that I have been brought into it in a cruel and a luckless way; but I shall not blame any one. You have, like the man I ever thought you to be, done all in your power to do me justice, when Mr. Fraser and Dr. Robertson waited on you—the former on the part of the lady, the latter on my part. I see by a minute which these gentlemen drew out, that 'Dr. Belfrage fully exonerated Dr. Mackintosh from all intention whatever of creating on his mind an impression injurious to any party

concerned.' I can never treat Mr. Syme as a gentleman. I never wish to mention his name, and if it be possible I shall avoid any reply to his Statement. It will vex me much if, through this affair, our friendly intercourse shall cease: whether it shall do so or not, I shall ever entertain the kindest recollection of you and yours, and fondly remember the many happy hours spent in your society.—Believe me to be, my dear sir, yours truly."

(Signed) "J. Mackintosh."

"*Dr. Belfrage, Slateford.*"

After a lapse of *seven* days, the following reply was received:—

"*Slateford, 9th October* 1832.

"My Dear Sir—I received your letter in the course of last week, and would have replied to it before this time, had I not been prevented, partly by professional engagements, and partly by a difficulty of determining the kind of communication I should make to you. I dislike extremely every thing that has the appearance of artifice and reserve, and were I to yield to my inclination, would immediately enter into details, and furnish you with explanations which would go far to vindicate myself, *and also to satisfy you;* but prudence tells me that it is better in the present circumstances to be silent. I therefore leave the case, so far as I am concerned in it, without farther comment, and refer you to my last letter as containing my statement and apology. That a mistake, a serious mistake, has been committed, is unquestionable; but whether it originated with you or me may not be easily determined. If ever the question is settled, it must be by an appeal to direct evidence, not by a reference to presumptive circumstances. But I refrain from the discussion, and only beg leave to add, that notwithstanding of what has happened, I had no intention to injure you, and that I feel towards you the same respect and kindness

as ever; that I have a most grateful recollection of the friendly offices you have done to myself and friends; that I approve highly of the wisdom with which you have acted on a recent occasion; and that if you will have the goodness in passing to call upon me, you will meet with a cordial welcome, and oblige, my dear sir, yours truly,

(Signed) "JOHN BELFRAGE."

It must be remarked that parts of these letters were printed in Dr. Belfrage's Statement, p. 16. If he had had the honesty to insert them entire, much light would have been thrown on the transaction, not only in as far as Dr. M. is concerned, but the precise truth of the statement of Mr. Fraser and Dr. Robertson, as contained in their minute, would have been made manifest. But this would not have suited Dr. Belfrage's purpose. It would have been seen, in the first place, that while Dr. Belfrage loudly accuses Dr. M. of an atrocious act of conspiracy to ruin Dr. B.'s friend Mr. Syme, as communicated to him by Dr. Mackintosh himself on the 21st September 1832, he writes to this same Dr. Mackintosh on 9th October following, or about eighteen days after the date of the offence, assuring him that he felt towards Dr. M. *the same respect and kindness as ever—that he approved highly of the wisdom of his conduct on a recent occasion, and that if he would call at Slateford he would meet with a cordial reception.*

Is this letter consistent with a disgraceful, mean, and designing conduct, resulting from a conspiracy to ruin the character of an amiable young lady, and the future prospects of one of Dr. Belfrage's friends? Is it consistent with Dr. Belfrage's statement? Shame! shame!!

These letters would also have satisfied every one of the perfect correctness of the minute drawn out by Mr. Fraser and Dr. Robertson regarding Dr. Belfrage's *exoneration of*

Dr. M. "*from all intention whatever of creating on his mind an impression injurious to any party concerned.*" In the above letter to Dr. Belfrage, Dr. M. speaks of the minute drawn out by Mr. Fraser and Dr. Robertson. In quoting the passage in question, he compliments Dr. B. on the propriety of his conduct towards him on the occasion of the visit of these gentlemen. Had this extract from the minute been incorrect, either in its terms or substance, Dr. B. was bound to return an immediate refutation. But instead of this, after mature deliberation, and at the end of a week, Dr. Belfrage writes an answer which contains no contradiction or refutation. Dr. Mackintosh had lost or mislaid the copy of his letter to Dr. Belfrage of 2d October; but he sent a note by a gentleman to Dr. Belfrage on Saturday the 3d November, requesting to be allowed to take a copy from the original letter, which was readily granted. So that the statement by Mr. Fraser and Dr. Robertson, arguing the correctness of the original minute, and proving their own complete accuracy, against the Dr.'s jesuitical attempts to impugn it, is now completely substantiated by the production of the Dr.'s own letter, which these gentlemen had no opportunity of seeing.

Unfortunate, infatuated man, where will you hide your diminished head? What reparation can you make to Mr. Syme for the loss of his honour—for the destruction (may it be temporary) of his family peace—for the separation of sisters, who once formed a happy and attached family circle, and who were devoted to each other?

Let Dr. Belfrage ask himself how he would have felt if Dr. Mackintosh had been as rash, impetuous, and unreasonable as some people, for their own purposes, would fain represent him to be.

The reflection must be bitter enough to Dr. B., if his heart is not made of stone, when he thinks of the various injuries his rashness, indiscretion, and folly have occasioned.

"*The subject of the young lady* (says he) *called forth only* ONE *passing remark—it was the part others were acting on the occasion—it was the attempt they were making, through the medium of this same family connexion, to insult Mr. Syme, to mortify and annoy him, with which I wished to make him acquainted; and when I mentioned that there appeared to me the strongest evidence of a conspiracy to do him injury, and that the above was only one of the numerous measures resorted to in order to destroy his peace, his respectability and success in life, it will not perhaps be thought that I proceeded inconsiderately and rashly on the occasion, or that I was actuated by love of tattle and of mischief, but that I was influenced by a generous concern for Mr. Syme's welfare, and that I would not have been his friend if I had withheld from him the communication I made.*" (P. 14.)

The reflection must indeed be bitter enough in contemplating the consequences which have ensued, and still worse in thinking of those which might have taken place. Suppose that the parties had had a hostile meeting, and that Dr. Mackintosh had fallen—fancy Mr. Syme at the bar of justice, using the plea of this conspiracy as a justification—Dr. M.'s memory might have been execrated, because no one could have rebutted Dr. B.'s evidence to that effect.

But suppose, on the other hand, that Mr. Syme had lost his life: fancy this explosion of the conspiracy made upon Dr. M., and the unfavourable effect it must have produced upon the minds of judge and jury at a time when Dr. M. could neither have had time nor opportunity to produce proof in exculpation, or to rebut the evidence of Dr. Belfrage and his ladies.

Let Dr. B. reflect upon these and a thousand other probable circumstances, with that calmness becoming a clergyman, and he will see good reason to seek Dr. M.'s forgiveness, and do all in his power to repair the mischievous

results of his conduct to the various parties concerned, and satisfy the injury done to society. Let him do all this—and let him cement the bonds of affection between brother and sister. Dr. Mackintosh can forget and forgive: he will assist him in this Christian office. But should Dr. Belfrage's heart be hardened, he may depend on this, that wherever the story is known, the public will be loud in their condemnation of him, and he will die miserable, degraded, and unregretted.

Dr. Mackintosh would willingly have concluded at this point of the affair; but being now engaged in making his defence to satisfy public opinion, and not to punish Dr. B., he cannot but proceed to make it complete.

At page 14, Dr. Belfrage arrives at the consideration of the second conclusion, and attempts to invalidate the united testimony of Mr. Fraser and Dr. Robertson, in reference to the subject of their minute, setting forth that Dr. Belfrage had exonerated Dr. M. But as this part of the affair is out of Dr. Mackintosh's hands, and rests entirely with Mr. Fraser and Dr. Robertson, he will confidently leave it to them.

SECOND STATEMENT OF MR. FRASER AND DR. ROBERTSON.

"It is in as far only as the Reverend Dr. Belfrage's Statement, dated Slateford, 18th October 1832, denies that the minute made up by us is deserving of credit, that we feel ourselves called upon to notice that production. To that minute we strictly adhere, as shewing the true result of our meeting with Dr. Belfrage. It was thought at the time to be wholly unnecessary to communicate a copy of the minute to the reverend gentleman, both because he was no *party* having any interest in the matter, he being only

applied to by us on behalf of those immediately interested, and also because his statement was so satisfactory to us, and apparently so conclusive, that we considered the matter at rest. In these circumstances, it would have been absurd to have requested him to authenticate what he never could deny, and which, even now, it will be seen his own Statement fully confirms. He ought not to have published any statement on a '*cursory perusal*' of the minute; but he ventures in this situation to characterize that document, in three separate and distinct paragraphs, as '*vague, partial, ambiguous, and calculated to mislead.*' It will be seen, however, that according to the reverend gentleman's own statement it is perfectly correct in all its parts. 1*st*, The minute says, and as appears by Dr. B.'s statement (pp. 17-18), 'that I (Dr. B.) exonerated Dr. M. from all intention of creating upon my mind an impression injurious to any party concerned in the matter.' Dr. Belfrage adds, 'I look upon Mr. Syme as a party principally concerned in the matter, and assuredly Dr. M. said what was both intended and calculated to make an impression on my mind very injurious to him. *But this was no part of the subject of my conversation with the above gentlemen* (Dr. Robertson and Mr. Fraser.) The question they put to me was—Did Dr. M. shew any hostile disposition towards Miss W., or *any wish to injure her character?* My answer was—*None.*' It never having been alleged, till the above statement appeared, that Dr. Mackintosh had said anything injurious of Mr. Syme, could Mr. S. therefore be a 'party concerned in the matter' of our conversation with the reverend gentleman? Certainly not. He must be viewed merely in the character of informer, or as the channel through which the injury alleged to be done to the young lady was conveyed to her brother-in-law Mr. Fraser. Now, as it plainly appears from Dr. B.'s own statement, that what he alleges Dr. M. had said injurious to Mr. S. was no part of the subject of his (Dr. B.'s) conversation

with us, it must be equally evident that Mr. S. was no party concerned in the matter, and as it also appears from that statement, that Dr. M. did not show any wish to injure Miss W.'s character, the first objection to the minute is altogether removed, and its most essential part expressly confirmed. 2*dly*, The minute farther says, and as appears by Dr. B.'s Statement, p. 18, 'that he (Dr. B.) was now convinced that the impressions which he, Dr. Belfrage, entertained previously of the whole circumstances, were erroneous.' Dr. B. adds, 'here the minute is defective;' and immediately afterwards says, 'Dr. R., who was an eye-witness, related to me distinctly the particulars of the case. I told him that I gave full credit to his testimony,—that I was now satisfied that the facts were quite different from what Dr. M. had represented.' Here Dr. B. acknowledges that he gave *full credit to Dr. R.'s testimony; and that he was now satisfied that the facts were quite different from what Dr. M. had represented.* Were not the impressions, therefore, which Dr. B. entertained previously, erroneous? The second objection is thus also entirely removed; and 3*dly*, The minute mentions, and as *partly* quoted by Dr. B., p. 18, 'that Dr. B. regretted having communicated these erroneous impressions to Mr. Syme.' It is very painful to us to be under the necessity of accusing any man, but more especially a clergyman, and a man of Dr. B.'s years and responsibility, of any thing so unjust and so unhandsome as that which we are here forced to notice. The sentence in our minute, of which the above quotation by Dr. B. forms *but a part*, is as follows, 'that he (Dr. B.) regretted having communicated these erroneous impressions to Mr. S., *without having had a further communication with Dr. M., and thereby having had an opportunity of making himself fully acquainted with all the bearings of the case.*' Now, if Dr. B. had been just and liberal, as might have been expected,

he would have inserted in his statement the above sentence as now given; seeing, as he must at once have seen, that the part which he has inserted rests entirely for its proper meaning upon that part which he has carefully omitted. It is very evident, however, that the reverend gentleman took that portion only which he found best suited his own purpose; forgetting at the moment that in the very next page he might, perhaps through inadvertency, be more candid, and led to tell the truth. And accordingly, in p. 19, he 'admits that *it would have been well*, now that I know the consequences that had followed on the inaccuracy of the information which Dr. M. had imparted to me, if I had *sought and found an opportunity of conversing with the Dr. again*, as, the subject being then brought anew before his mind, he might have been led to see and correct the error which he had fallen into; and that thus the case, in its corrected form, *would have been conveyed to Mr. S., and much mischief have been prevented.*' Is there not here an expression of regret by Dr. B. for having communicated with Mr. S. before again conversing with Dr. Mackintosh? There certainly is, and as the minute asserts no more, the third objection is likewise completely removed. Our minute which Dr. B. represents as being 'defective,' as 'vague, partial, ambiguous, and calculated to mislead,' is thus clearly proved, and must now appear, even to the '*careless reader*,' and by *Dr. B.'s own showing*, to be the true result of our interview with that gentleman.

"We have now to remark that had Dr. B. indeed looked upon our minute as '*vague and ambiguous*,' he should, we think, in common prudence, have required an explanation before making such an unpardonable and unmanly attack upon us. In conclusion, whatever may be our private opinion of the character of that man who would studiously and calmly communicate an ordinary conversation, such as that brought forward by Dr. B., to the party the subject of

it, and thus deliberately take into his hand the most effectual weapon to ruin domestic peace, and injure society, we, in compassion for a fellow-creature, and out of respect to his profession, refrain from expressing it, leaving it to his own conscience to justify or condemn such conduct, and to determine whether, 'in the whole affair,' he has been '*actuated by pure and benevolent motives;*' whether he has '*strictly adhered to truth;*' and whether he has *felt unkindly, or acted unjustly towards any party concerned.*' *

(Signed) " J. A. R.
" C. M. F."

It will be remarked, even on a " cursory " perusal of all Dr. Belfrage's communications, that there is an ambiguity and darkness—a laboured effort to conceal and mystify. It will be perceived also, that to assist him in this, he is much too anxious to boast of his great and ardent love of truth. In his first letter, when his veracity had never been called in question, and when he could be charged only with rashness, indiscretion, and a breach of the ordinary confidence expected in the society of well-

* After this statement was written, Dr. Mackintosh handed to us the copy of a letter which he had addressed to Dr. Belfrage on 2d October ult., and Dr. B.'s reply, dated 9th same month. The perusal of these letters would have saved us considerable trouble had we seen them sooner. By the former document, it will be observed that Dr. M., after thanking Dr. Belfrage for his conduct in the interview with us, and exonerating him, has actually quoted the passage as follows :—' Dr. Belfrage fully exonerated Dr. Mackintosh from all intention whatever of creating on his mind an impression injurious to any party concerned.' Dr. B. must have been satisfied with the correctness of that statement, otherwise he would have immediately written to contradict it ; so far from this being done, Dr. B., in his reply of the 9th, makes no objection to the passage copied from our minute. (Signed) " J. A. R.
" C. M. F."

educated people, he evaded the real circumstances by making an oblique wheel, and in laboured and varnished words proceeded to produce his holy witness. He speaks of his great regard for truth perhaps upon the same principle which is stated by a celebrated author, that " if the devil were to write a book, it would be in praise of virtue."

The only other point in Dr. Belfrage's Statement which Dr. M. thinks it necessary to notice is that which relates to the exact statement made by Dr. M. as to the manner of Mr. Liston's going to Miss Willis's. Dr. Belfrage still insists, notwithstanding his exoneration of Dr. M., that he said " *Mr. Liston met Miss Willis on the street, and said he was coming to her party in the evening, and that he went accordingly.*" Dr. Mackintosh does not think this is correct, and, after all, it is a matter of so little consequence that he would scarcely condescend to notice it, were it not that it afforded Dr. Belfrage an opportunity of making the strongest insinuations against Dr. M.'s veracity. The medical world, who know Mr. Syme ; and his relatives, who know the parties, are well aware that Mr. Syme would not have cared if Old Nick had been taken to drink tea with Miss Willis, provided he were not a good operating surgeon !

It is not impossible that Dr. M., in speaking hurriedly in allusion to Mr. Liston meeting Mrs. Fraser and party on the street, might have accidentally substituted the name of Miss Willis, instead of that of her sister, Mrs. Fraser. But supposing the transaction capable of the worst construction, as insinuated by Dr. Belfrage in his last statement, (page 15) it does not diminish Dr. Belfrage's awful responsibility for the mischief he has occasioned, by not having taken the precaution of requiring a verbal or written explanation from Dr. M. on the subject, before he made any communication to Mr. Syme. Dr. M. does not pretend to be exempt from the faults and frailties common to humanity, but he scarcely thinks he could have gone through the world in so many

public and private situations, with the success and credit he has acquired, if he were in the habit of doing that which Dr. B., in the true spirit of the angel he seems to serve, has attributed to him. The reverend gentleman seems to be very quick in detecting the mote in his neighbour's eye, while the beam in his own escapes his notice. What can be said of the conduct of that man who can in the same page quibble, quote half sentences, and one half of a letter only, to serve his own purposes, when the whole sentence, or the whole letter, would have served the glorious cause of truth? But Dr. M. may add, in the language of Dr. Belfrage, applied to Dr M., "here I wish to insinuate nothing to the prejudice of Dr. Belfrage." Lacon says, somewhat in the following words: "Always suspect a man who affects great softness of manner, and unruffled evenness of temper, and an enunciation studied, slow, and deliberate: these things are all unnatural, and bespeak a degree of mental discipline, into which he that has no purposes of craft or design to answer, cannot submit to drill himself. The most successful knaves are usually of this description, as smooth as razors dipped in oil, and as sharp. They affect the innocence of the dove, which they have not, to hide the cunning of the serpent which they have." Query to Dr. Belfrage: as no man doth wrong merely for the wrong's sake, but to purchase some advantage, what motive had you "*to meddle in strife not belonging to you?*" Were you actuated by a desire of revenge against any individual? Was there any feeling of that kind directed against an individual obscurely noticed in your first jesuitical epistle, when you speak of "being well assured that there existed a disposition *in a certain quarter* to annoy" Mr. Syme? Is that individual Mr. Liston? In fact, can you lay your hand on your heart, and say, that in meddling with the strife, your conduct was not influenced by your own private quarrel with Mr. Liston, originating some years ago in the be-

haviour of your son to that gentleman, when your son was an apprentice to Mr. Syme?

Dr. Mackintosh here takes leave of Dr. Belfrage, in the hope that during the rest of his life he will feel more "*extreme reluctance to meddle in strife not belonging to him*, or to have *his name* coupled with a transaction which Dr. M. feels persuaded he must now abhor from the bottom of his heart. Few will believe he did so before he saw the gulph he was to fall into, and which he had assisted to prepare for others.

HAVING disposed of Dr. Belfrage, Dr. Mackintosh again turns with reluctance to Mr. Syme. He says reluctance, for he does not know a more disagreeable two-legged animal than a little would-be great man, and next a little great man's factotum.

The first circumstances he has to notice are the statements in the different notes at p. 4 of Mr. Syme's pamphlet. Dr. M. is authorized to state, that in substance, and spirit, and order, they are false, Miss Willis and Mr. Fraser still adhering to their former declarations, as contained in Dr. M.'s first pamphlet. There is, however, some new matter introduced in these notes at page 4, which Miss Willis and Mr. Fraser cannot authorize to go uncontradicted. The following letters will point out and correct the falsehoods.

NOTES ABOVE REFERRED TO.

"The lady had been made acquainted by her sister with the circumstances before Mr. Syme saw her. Before expressing his own opinion he asked her what she felt it right to do. She replied, 'Certainly to have nothing more to do

with the Mackintoshes;' adding, '*that this had been her first impression at the time of the extraordinary visit; and that she deeply regretted having departed from it in consequence of the solicitation of Mrs. Mackintosh, together with her assurance that the circumstance should be carefully concealed from Mr. Syme.*' Mr. Syme expressed his satisfaction at her taking this view of the case, and stated, that unless she had done so, he could not any longer have recognised her as connected with his family. As to the threats mentioned and darkly insinuated by Dr. Mackintosh, he utterly disclaims and denies them.* He begged the lady to consider well what she was about to do, and warned her not to take the step she proposed, unless she felt it to be called for by the *visit*, independently of Dr. Mackintosh's statements at Slateford, which he had a presentiment would be soon retracted. She assured Mr. Syme that such was her distinct understanding, and requested his assistance in expressing by letter her resolution to Mrs. Mackintosh. After a good deal of solicitation, he wrote the copy of a note, which is the only part of his conduct not approved of by his friends, and which, in deference to their judgment, he regrets. The lady having approved of the note, proposed to commence it with 'My dear Mrs. Mackintosh;' to which Mr. Syme objected, as being inconsistent, and again advised her to write a note of her own, in any terms that she thought proper.

"The object of communicating the circumstances to Mr. Fraser, was to shew that gentleman the reason which existed for not inviting the lady to his house with the family of Dr. Mackintosh, and for not in any way leading her to resume any intercourse with them. Mr. Fraser promised that she

* Dr. Mackintosh, notwithstanding this obstinate denial, will still observe that delicacy of conduct which induced him to suppress the threat referred to by Mr. Syme. But he will state it to any person authorized by Mr. Syme.

should not be interfered with ; and then said, that he thought Dr. Mackintosh should be called to account for his conduct ; to which Mr. Syme replied that in his opinion it was quite unnecessary to do so, as the lady would be best vindicated by being recognised in his family, and as no explanation on the part of Dr. Mackintosh could make any difference in the terms on which he had previously been with that gentleman."

On reading these passages, Mrs. Mackintosh, in the absence of her husband, addressed the following letter to Miss Willis :—

" *Tuesday Morning, October* 23, 1832.

" My Dear Fanny—It is very painful to me to be obliged to call your attention to Mr. Syme's explanatory note, page 4th of his Statement, where he says,—' Before expressing his own opinion, he asked her (Miss Willis) what she felt it right to do.' She replied, ' Certainly to have nothing more to do with the Mackintoshes ;' adding, ' that this had been her first impression at the time of the extraordinary visit ; and that she deeply regretted having departed from it, in consequence of the solicitation of Mrs. Mackintosh, together with her assurance that the circumstance should be carefully concealed from Mr. Syme.' It thus appears that you have said that which you knew, very well knew, as far as applicable to me, to be utterly false. Under these circumstances, I feel it due to myself, as well as to you, to request you will declare your sentiments with regard to it. From your subsequent behaviour, I cannot think you had any such impression as that described ; but if you had, allow me to ask, *did* you let *me* know it ? or did you say so to your sister Mrs. Fraser, who was equally in fault, *if* indeed there was *any* fault. Forgive me, my dear Fanny, should this cause you uneasiness ; believe me, I do not wish to increase your distress ; but it is absolutely

necessary to our mutual good understanding that you should candidly and distinctly state the facts to me.—I am, my dear Fanny, your affectionate friend,

(Signed) " JANE MACKINTOSH."

" *Nelson Street, October* 23, 1832.

" MY DEAR MRS. MACKINTOSH—In reply to your letter of this morning, I can only say, that in the agitation of the moment, Mr. Syme must have misunderstood my meaning in our conversation alluded to by you in ' Note page 4 of his Statement,' *as no solicitations were ever made by you to me on the subject. Nor were any assurances given me that the circumstance should be carefully concealed from Mr. Syme. Neither could I then have felt any of the impressions toward you therein expressed, knowing my sister, Mrs. Fraser, was a principal in introducing the guest.* I must now entreat that whatever statements it may be deemed necessary again to publish, my name may be entirely suppressed.

" After this explanation I may add, that nothing will again induce me to write another line on this distressing subject; and in order the more fully to secure this end, I shall send a copy of this letter to Mr. Syme.—I am, dear Mrs. Mackintosh, yours sincerely,

(Signed) " F. WILLIS."

Mr. Fraser's Remarks on the above Statement as far as he is concerned.

" I was certainly requested not to ask the lady to my house when any of Dr. M.'s family were to be there. This very singular request I treated as it deserved, and as seen by my former Statement. I did indeed say that the lady *should not*

be interfered with—that she should be left to judge for herself. If this is what Mr. S. means by the promise, said in the above note to be made by me, he is right; but if he intend to infer any thing more, he is in error. Mr. S. could not have said to me, as stated in the note, that, in his opinion, it was quite unnecessary to call Dr. M. to account for his conduct. On the contrary, he not only approved highly of the view I had taken of the matter, but advised me, when I went to the Dr., to go in very coolly; and, at the sametime, he very properly cautioned me against getting into a passion. It is very likely that Mr. Syme did state that 'the lady would be best vindicated by being recognised in his family.' If I noticed this observation by Mr. Syme, and did not laugh at it, I certainly must have had some difficulty in refraining.

(Signed) "C. M. F."

Is there any thing more necessary to prove the gross inaccuracy of Mr. Syme's statements?

At page 10 of Mr. Syme's pamphlet the following statements are made.

"*A few copies of this statement, without note or comment of any kind, were circulated among Mr. Syme's friends.* Dr. Mackintosh has thought proper to print it, together with a laboured defence, the object of which is to shew that he was justified in refusing Mr. Syme*

* There never was a piece of scandal more industriously and rapidly circulated, for on the following Sunday it was known every where, and Dr. M.'s friends met with the report on their way to church. The sentence which follows is intended to throw odium on Dr. M. for making the matter more public by printing his statement, whereas the blame of bringing the matter before the public rests entirely with Mr. Syme.

satisfaction for his extraordinary letter. This Dr. Mackintosh attempts to do by trying to make it appear that Mr. Syme constrained the lady to discontinue her intercourse with Dr. Mackintosh's family,—that he did so on the ground of the imputations thrown upon her conduct by Dr. Mackintosh at Slateford,—and that Dr. Belfrage had completely exonerated him from all blame on this account. Granting that Dr. Mackintosh had established all these positions, the laws of honour would have afforded him no excuse for refusing Mr. Syme satisfaction; since no law recognises the principle that the perpetration of one offence protects the offender against punishment for a second.† But there is not one of these positions established on truth. The discontinuance of acquaintance was the lady's own proposal,—the ground for it was the liberty taken with her by Mrs. Mackintosh, in bringing the uninvited guest to her house,—and that Dr. Belfrage had not exonerated Dr. Mackintosh will appear from the subjoined Statement."

† This is a piece of impudence, although Dr. Mackintosh acquiesces in its truth. The perpetration of one offence most assuredly does not protect the offender against punishment for a second. But Dr. Mackintosh denies having committed the offence. It was Mr. Syme who committed the first offence by acting towards the ladies of Dr. M.'s family in a rude, indelicate, and insulting manner, tyrannising over a young lady, and by abusing Dr. Mackintosh on erroneous information for several days, when Mr. Syme, as a gentleman anxious to afford proper protection to his sister-in-law, and reasonably scrupulous concerning his own character and honour, ought to have sought an explanation from Dr. M. on Saturday, Sunday, Monday, or Tuesday. If he had done so, a satisfactory termination of the affair must have been the result.

The following is Mr. Syme's Catalogue of the errors alleged to have been committed by Dr. Mackintosh.

Dr. Mackintosh's Replies.

1. Making an untrue and injurious statement at Slateford.

If this relates to the lady, it is proved to have been false, and Dr. M. would as soon think of making an injurious statement against his own daughter, as against Miss Willis. If it applies to the conspiracy, it is equally false, as has already been shown.

2. Sending Mr Syme a most atrociously insulting letter.

Admitted.—Mr. Syme had been working hard for it, and sending such a letter was more polite than giving him a whipping. An apology was improperly demanded by Mr. Syme for an offence which, according to the rules of honour, admits of no apology.

3. Making himself a judge of his own cause, and refusing to name a friend who might have entered into the merits of the case with Dr. Sharpey.

Dr. M. did not make himself the sole judge in his own cause. The whole circumstances, as then known, had been communicated to a friend, who, although not formally consulted, had given his decided opinion that Dr. M. should not enter further into discussion about the matter, but positively refuse to have any communication on the subject. And for this reason, that Mr. Syme, regardless of all the laws of honour and fair dealing among gentlemen, had been engaged for

days in propagating a report disgraceful to Dr. Mackintosh, *if true*, and which ought to have been communicated to him the instant it was heard of. It now turns out that the whole was a fabrication, but whether true or not (more particularly if not true), Dr. Mackintosh was prohibited by all the laws of honour and humanity from accepting of a challenge from a person in Mr. Syme's situation. The only other answer which he will make to this supposed error, is that his conduct has been approved of by gentlemen of the army, who are the last persons to excuse any dereliction of duty in such cases. Dr. M. admits that he had some vague presentiment that all the fuss could not be occasioned solely by Mr. Syme's nice scruples about Miss Willis' tea-drinking party; but little did he imagine that he should afterwards be assailed by the Munchausen story of a conspiracy, engendered in the subtle brain of Dr. Belfrage.

4. Refusing, on his own responsibility, to give Mr. Syme satisfaction.

This complaint has been already fully answered. No one is more willing than Dr. M. to admit that the ministration of the laws of honour is attended with the best effects to the well-being of polite society; but if they are to be allowed to be perverted to screen meanness or duplicity, the very

worst consequences would follow. There is sometimes doubt as to how parties ought to act in reference to these matters—in the present case there can be no doubt. The moment that Mr. Syme was told that Dr. M. had traduced the fame of his sister-in-law, a peremptory explanation ought to have been demanded, and it would have been granted. In place of doing so, he proceeds covertly, but most effectually, to publish among their mutual friends that Dr. M. had traduced the character of his sister-in-law ;—he pours phials of wrath upon the unoffending lady—attempts to punish her by excluding her from the society of her own sister, and prevails upon her to write a most insulting letter to the ladies of Dr. M.'s family. Dr. M., on ascertaining what Mr. S. had been doing for days, does intentionally write to him a most insulting letter. It could not but be insulting as applicable to a gentleman, because it narrated truly what Mr. Syme had done, and what a gentleman in such circumstances ought to have done. Then comes forward Mr. Syme, when he was forced to do it, and not till then, and what does he ask? an apology for the letter. Such a demand was absurd, and brought forward at a season, and in a manner contrary to the well-known and established rules of honour.

5. Publishing to the world that Dr. Belfrage had exonerated him, while he had in his own possession a letter from that gentleman, distinctly insisting upon his own accuracy.

Oh dear, Mr. Syme, how stupid you must have become since Saturday 22d September. Peruse Dr. Belfrage's letter, and compare it with the minute of Mr. Fraser and Dr. Robertson. If you have still any doubt, pray recollect that Dr. M. wrote a letter to Dr. Belfrage, dated 2d October, in which he thanked him for doing him justice in the interview with Dr. Robertson and Mr. Fraser, your brother-in-law. He actually quoted the passage from the minute of those gentlemen, by which it appears that Dr. Belfrage had exonerated him, using inverted commas to point out the very words which had been used by these gentlemen. Dr. B. had not then the temerity to contradict it. Even a week after (9th October), the Doctor writes to him, *in answer to that very letter*, and dares not even then contradict the statement.—*Vide* letter, page 12.

"Any comment" (as Mr. Syme says) "upon these delinquencies would be superfluous, and Mr. Syme considers it unmanly to apply harsh epithets to an individual in the situation of Dr. Mackintosh." Thank you kindly, Mr. Syme; you have behaved very handsomely and generously not to call him by a hard name. He has not been cut by any individual: his patients are quite satisfied with him, and he is even employed and supported by medical people in the country where Mr. Syme has taken much pains to circulate his statements, and where Dr. M.'s have not yet been seen—his friends and acquaint-

ances condemn Mr. Syme's conduct, but more severely that of Dr. Belfrage; and if Mr. S. had gone through the same ordeal that Dr. M. submitted himself to, and which he knows Mr. Syme had the amiable intention of *forcing* him to submit to, Mr. Syme might not have come off quite so well.

But, Mr. Syme, those who know you only about half as well as Dr. M. does, will give you very little credit for the kind of generosity you boast of, had Dr. M. really stood in need of it. Know, that it matters not to Dr. Mackintosh, or to any other gentleman, what Mr. Syme may hereafter say or do. The "sarpint" has lost its sting, and Mr. Syme is as firmly fixed in his present position as the last of the Irish sarpints, which Saint Patrick has in safe and comfortable keeping at the bottom of the Lake of Killarney.*

Dr. M. hopes he is now done with Mr. Syme and this horridly paltry affair; but he has still a supply of ammunition, should it be necessary to return to it.

His farewell advice to Mr. Syme, and he hopes he will accept of it, *fas est ab hoste doceri*, would be to refrain from showing symptoms of petty jealousy of successful rivals, and not to allow his cooler judgment to be carried captive by designing priestcraft, or be induced to take measures covertly to traduce any one, much less an old friend, who would be more willing to afford an explanation where it was due, than have the unpleasant satisfaction of exposing the machinations of hollow friends, or the misstatements of avowed opponents. Dr. M. hopes Mr. Syme will employ his leisure hours, after digesting the above statement, in endeavouring to reunite those bonds of sisterly and brotherly affection which have been so recklessly severed. Dr. Mackintosh can assure Mr. Syme, that as soon as this affair is quietly at rest he will freely forgive, and endeavour to forget, the injuries he has received.

* *Vide* Chambers' Edinburgh Journal, No. 35.